

LONGRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December,

1951.

LONGRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Chairman :-

Councillor W.H. RIDING

Vice-Chairman :-

Councillor E.C. OAKES

Members :-

Councillor E.J. MELLING, Councillor G. SHUTTLEWORTH

Medical Officer of Health

J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.F.D.
also Divisional Medical Officer of Health to the Health
Division No. 4 Lancashire County Council and Medical
Officer of Health to the Leyland and Withnell Urban
District Councils and to Preston Rural District Council

Sanitary Inspector :

V.N. PAGE., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

also Cleansing Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ending 31st December, 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of Longridge for the year 1951.

Births. It is pleasing to report that the number of births shows an increase over the previous year. The number of registered births assignable to the District during the year was 87 being an increase of 9. The figure comprises 86 live births and one still birth. There was one illegitimate birth during 1951 as compared with none 1950. The live birth rate has risen from 17.7 to 20.0 per 1,000 population. The corresponding figures for England and Wales are 16.8 and 15.5.

Infant Deaths. It is also pleasing to report that only one infant died before reaching one year of age. This figure is the same as for the previous year.

Maternal Deaths. It is also very satisfactory to report that for the sixth consecutive year there were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy or childbirth.

Tuberculous Deaths. There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year as compared with 3 in the year 1950.

Total Deaths. The total number of deaths assignable to the District from all causes for the year 1951 amounts to 63 as compared to 47 in 1950. The Death Rate has risen, therefore, from 10.9 to 14.6 per 1,000 population. This figure for the country as a whole is 12.5.

Expectation of Life. On the basis of 1950 death-rates the estimated expectation of life of a male child would be 66.49 years and that of a female child 71.22. These figures compare with 48.53 and 52.38, respectively, in 1901.

19 females of the 33 deaths occurring in the district exceeded the figure of 71.22 years, and 18 males of the 30 deaths occurring exceeded the figure of 66.49 years shown in the expectation of life figures in the previous paragraph and given in the Registrar-Generals provisional vital statistics for 1951.

Infectious Diseases. During the year 36 cases of infectious disease (excluding 3 cases of tuberculosis) were notified as compared to 51 during the previous year.

The figures given above compare favourably with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

Only by making every effort to maintain the services can the improvement continue.

The urgent housing needs of the district are now being met and no doubt the time is approaching when more definite action can be taken under the Housing Acts to improve the housing standard in the areas earmarked to attention.

I would take this opportunity to express my best thanks to the members and officials of the Council for their support and assistance.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant

J. Walker

Physical Characteristics of Longridge

The district is a hilly one, the main portion of the thickly populated and industrial part of the area is situated upon an eminence of some 450 feet above sea level then rising to Tootell Height of 500 feet elevation. This height is continuous with the hump backed ridge known as Longridge Fell running to the North East of the township.

Surrounding this central eminence and falling from it to the Plain of the Fylde and the valley of the River Ribble are the more rural parts of the area where are situated the farms producing milk. These lower and flatter portions of the district being a continuation of the Fylde Plain show the same geological formation. Thus there is a superficial layer of upper boulder clay containing stones and boulders, a layer varying in depth of Middle Drift Sand and a Lower Boulder Clay Layer. These layers lie upon rock underneath and this rock is continuous to the Fylde Coast. The clay and sand layers vary in thickness in different parts of the district.

The central part of the area has shallow layers of glacial drift only and the rocks which are of gritstone are of a permeable character containing faults which permit surface waters from the higher levels to percolate to the lower.

In the north western part of the district the rock is of shale and is not permeable.

Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area

Area in acres	- 3,285
Population (Census 1951)	- 4,300
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid 1951)	- 4,308
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	- 1,067
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951, Ratebook)	- 1,350
Rateable Value (31/3/52) £26,657	
Sum representing a penny rate £105	

The social conditions :- The chief industry is cotton weaving, but there are stone quarries, an iron foundry and many farms producing milk. The population is fully employed and is, on the whole, well housed in solidly constructed houses, many of them of local stone.

There are five reservoirs in the district forming part of the Waterworks Undertaking of Preston Corporation. The laboratory in connection with the water supply is also situated in Longridge.

Vital Statistics

Live Births

					M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	43	42	85
Illegitimate	...	....	....	....	1	-	1
Total	....	....	....	....	44	42	86

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population (mid 1951) 20.0 crude,
21.8 adjusted.

Still Births

					M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 11

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	....	12
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	....	....	....	....	12
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	....	....	....	....	Nil

Deaths and Death Rate

					M.	F.	Total
Total deaths (all causes)	....	....	....	....	30	33	63
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population	....	....	....	....			14.6
Deaths from Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....			-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	....			3
Deaths from Measles...	....	....	....	....			-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....			-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....			-
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	....	....	....	....			-

An Analysis of the Causes of Death

					M.	F.	Total
Diseases of the Heart	....	....	....	....	6	11	17
Other circulatory disease	...	....	....	....	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	....	....	....	....	4	8	12
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	-	1	1
Cancer	....	....	....	....	1	2	3
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	1	1	2
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	4	2	6
Influenza	....	....	....	....	5	2	7
Digestive Diseases	...	....	....	....	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	....	....	....	....	1	-	1
All other causes	....	....	....	....	7	5	12
					30	33	63

Nineteen of these deaths occurred in other districts and were transferred to the district.

Comparative Table of Vital Statistics for England and Wales,
Lancashire and Longridge

	Longridge	Lancs	England and Wales
Live Births per 1,000 of population	20.0	14.62	15.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	14.6	13.86	12.5
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	12	29	29.6
Death Rate from Measles per 1,000 population	Nil	N.A.	14.07
Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under 2) per 1,000 births	Nil	N.A.	1.4
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	0.69	0.79

A summarised table of the Vital Statistics in Longridge, Lancashire and England and Wales as given below:-

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis	Death rate from Cancer
Mean of 5 years 1946-1950	20.4	13.7	0.30	2.23
1950	17.7	10.9	0.74	N.A.
1951	∅ 20.0	+ 14.6	0.00	N.A.
Lancashire	14.62	13.86	0.26	1.96
England and Wales	15.5	12.5	0.31	N.A.

Maternal Mortality Rate

	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total live and still births	Infantile Mortality
Mean of 5 years 1946-1950	Nil	Nil	27
1950	Nil	Nil	13
1951	Nil	Nil	12
Lancashire	N.A.	0.69	29
England and Wales	N.A.	0.79	29.6

+ 1951 adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.93) = 13.6 per 1,000
 ∅ 1951 adjusted birth rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 21.8 per 1,000

N.A. = Not Available

Infectious Diseases

There were notified during the year 36 cases of Infectious Diseases, a decrease of 15 cases upon the previous year. The notifications were as follows :-

Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Acute Pnuemonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Four cases were removed to hospital. The absence of cases of diphtheria must again be emphasised.

A table below shows the age grouping of the cases notified :-

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Disease	Total all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	35	45	65 or over	Deaths	Removed to Hospital
Measles	16	2	1	3	3	1	4	2						
Whooping Cough	9		2		3	2	2							
Scarlet Fever	4			1			1	1				1		4
Pnuemonia	5			1						1	1	2		
Erysipelas	2									1	1			
Totals	36	2	3	5	6	3	7	3		2	2	3		4

The Control of Infectious Diseases

The general arrangement for controlling the incidence of infectious disease was similar to that of previous years. Cases of infectious diseases requiring isolation and treatment in hospital were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals, Holme Slack, Preston, and Heath Charnock

Tuberculosis

During the year there were no primary notifications of the respiratory type. Three primary notifications of the non-respiratory type were received. There were no deaths recorded for pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Table below gives the age distribution in regard to this disease

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality in 1950

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10				1				
15				1				
20								
25			1					
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals			1	2				

Sanitary Conditions of the Area

Water Supply, obtained from Preston Corporation, was sufficient in amount and of wholesome quality. The water was chlorinated. There were complaints of excessive chlorination, which were dealt with by the Corporation.

Preston Corporation took 11 samples of water from this district for bacteriological examination. All of them were satisfactory.

Four samples taken for chemical analysis also showed satisfactory results.

There were still 27 farms and dwelling houses not on the piped supply which drew their water from wells and springs. Some of these were above the mains level and some at such a distance that service would be uneconomical.

Refuse Disposal and Scavenging were carried on by the Council by motor vehicles. Weekly clearances previously established were continued. Full details will be found in Mr. Page's report appended.

Sewerage. The majority of the dwelling houses were on the water carriage system, though approximately 18.7% of the closets were waste water type.

A census made during the year revealed the details which are given in the table below:-

Number of houses on the water carriage system	1141
Number of fresh water closets	1293
Number of waste water closets	232
Number of privy middens	17
Number of pail closets	80
Number of dry ash-pits	NIL
Number of movable ashbins	1322

There were 13 conversions from waste water closets to fresh water closets.

Sanitary Inspections. 1027 visits were made during the year to investigate complaints or defects. Full details of the results will be found in Mr. Page's report.

Schools. All the schools were inspected during the year and no nuisances were found. It was not found necessary to close any of the schools for Infectious Disease in 1951.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply. The supervision of clean milk supply was continued through the year and the figures compare favourably with previous years.

Ice Cream. The results of the samples of ice cream taken are very satisfactory and is an improvement over last year.

During the year 24 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. Of these 18 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory.

19 samples were submitted to tests for the Bacillus Tuberculosis. One was positive and the rest negative. One cow found to be Tuberculous was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Qualitative Examinations of Food

Twenty six samples were taken by the County Council Sampling Officer, who supplied the following results:-

No. of Samples	Food
15	Milk
1	Butter
1	Cod liver oil
2	Malt extract with cod liver oil
3	Arrowroot
2	Tea
2	Cheese

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 6.6 per cent fat, 13.8 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 13.5 per cent extraneous water.	Prosecution Vendor fined £10 with 5 gns. costs.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 14.3 per cent solids-not-fat, and the freezing point indicated the presence of 14.2 per cent extraneous water.	

Ice Cream. All the premises producing ice cream were inspected regularly, and fourteen samples taken. Twelve being satisfactory and two unsatisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods. The details of inspections and work done in connection with these foods will be found in Mr. Page's report.

Food Poisoning. There were no cases notified of food poisoning.

Housing Statistics for 1951

24 new houses, 18, by the authority and 6 others, were erected during the year.

The number of houses inspected for defects was 166, and 270 visits were made for this purpose.

A demolition order was made in respect to one house under Sec. 11 Housing Act, 1936.

26 houses were rendered fit by repairs by informal action and 6 formal notices were served.

Housing repairs were difficult due to the restrictions placed upon repairs and by shortages of labour and material.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year, 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Longridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the Sanitary Work of the Health Department.

The ratepayers are again to be congratulated on their efforts in salvage collection 1951 can be looked upon as a bumper year when the amount of revenue received is considered. Though prices have since deteriorated, every effort will be made to see that our salvage figures remain well above the average of other urban districts.

The public seem reluctant to take advantage of the contribution the Council are prepared to make in assisting the conversion of the insanitary waste water closets, it is hoped that an improvement will be seen in next years figures.

May I again tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and support, and to my fellow officials for their co-operation at all times and to express my appreciation and thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his guidance and co-operation.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Details of Inspections

Total number of visits during 1951 (including Housing)	1027
Number of Revisits	359
Bakehouses	49
Drainage	173
Factories	60
Food Inspections	30
Farms, Dairies and Milkshops	36
Fried Fish Shops	8
Greengrocers' Shops	48
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	16
Ice Cream Premises	53
Infectious Diseases	4
Infectious Disease Fumigation	4
Licensed Premises	17
Offensive Trades	2
Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts	237
Refuse Collection and Disposal	148
Rodent Control	104
Schools	26
Shops	39
Smoke Observations	5

2. Details of Nuisances

Defects or nuisances:- No. Discovered 85. No. abated 76

No. of notices served:- Informal 30. Statutory 14

Legal proceedings:- 1. Result £2 Penalty and Advocates fee.

3. Sanitary Accommodation

The following are details of sanitary accommodation existing in the district

Pail or chemical closets	Privies	Waste water closets	Fresh water closets	Baths	Movable ashbins
80	17	232	1293	634	1322

The following is a list of Conversions carried out during the year.

No. of waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	13
No. of pail closets to Fresh W.C.'s	Nil

4. Rodent Control

This work is done by a part time Rodent Operative who carries out inspections and treatments where necessary.

Two sewer treatments have been carried out during the year, when 36 manholes out of 200 manholes were treated showing 13 partial and 3 complete takes.

The details shown below gives the number of inspections and treatments undertaken in the year.

	No. of Properties inspected	No. of Inspections made	No. of Treatments undertaken
Local Authority Properties, Tips, etc.	14	21	6
Dwelling Houses	694	730	29
Business Premises	84	98	17
Agricultural Properties	25	32	4
Total.	817	881	56

5. Smoke Abatement

Five smoke observations were taken during the year, in all cases excessive emissions of smoke were observed, the absence of Byelaws to deal with this nuisance makes control difficult, there being no period laid down which black smoke must not exceed.

There are four chimneys within the district whose plant consumes large quantities of bituminous fuel.

6. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply. The following are details of Dairymen and retailers on the register on the 31st December, 1951.

Producers Retailers T.T. (certified)	2
Producers Retailers	3
Dairymen T.T. (certified)	2

Report on Milk Samples

During the year 24 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and 19 samples submitted for biological tests to the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory 3 samples were submitted for the Phosphatase test, the results of which are shown in the following table:-

Test carried out	No. of samples taken	No. passed	No. failed	Percentage failed
Methylene Blue (keeping quality)	24	18	6	25
Bacillus Coli (cleanliness)	24	19	5	20.8
Tubercle Bacillus Biological Test	19	18	1	5.3
Phosphatase Test	3	3	-	Nil

Report on Ice Cream Samples

Fourteen samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory the results of which are shown in the following tables.

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
14	11	1	-	2

Inspections of Meat and Other Foods

Inspections of home killed pigs have been carried out and found to be generally sound and free from disease.

Routine visits were made to Butchers' Shops and Grocery Stores and the under mentioned foods were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

	lbs.	ozs.
Bacon 10 tins	10	-
Beans 1 tin	1	-
Beaf loaf 6 tins	4	8
Brislings 16 tins	4	-
Carrots 3 tins	5	10
Cherries 5 tins	5	6
Damsons 22 tins	27	8
Grapes 2 tins	3	2
Ham 10 tins	119	7
Luncheon Meat 22 tins	23	-
Mackerel 2 tins		9
Meat Gravy 5 tins	6	4
Milk 28 tins	78	-
Peaches 6 tins	11	4
Pears 9 tins	13	13
Peas 3 tins	3	9
Plums 2 tins	5	7
Salmon 16 tins	16	-

7. Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal

The Collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage and pail closet emptying, is carried out weekly and is giving satisfaction, all dustbins are treated from time to time with an insecticide which assists in combating fly breeding.

The position regarding the supply of new dustbins has further improved and 57 dustbins have been supplied during the year by the Council in addition to some owners purchasing from other sources.

Salvage collection figures have been maintained similar to those of the previous year, the high price received from the sale of waste paper has been a considerable help to the rates this year, and Longridge made a good showing in the National Waste Paper contest by being amongst the fourth prize winners.

The following is a summary of the Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Salvage during the financial year ended 31st March, 1952, together with figures, for the preceding financial year ended 31st March, 1951.

Estimated Weight of Refuse and Salvage Collected

	1950/51			1951/52		
	T.	c.	q.	T.	c.	q.
House and Trade Refuse	892.	10.	2	914.	5.	-
Salvage	81.	8.	2	80.	-	2
	973.	18.	2	994.	5.	2

Cost of Collection and Disposal

	1950/51			1951/52		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wages	838.	-	-	919.	-	-
Motor Transport	635.	-	-	531.	-	-
Sundries	192.	-	-	109.	-	-
Salvage, cost of baling	380.	-	-	527.	-	-
	2045.	-	-	1886.	-	-
Less Income						
Trade Refuse	17.	-	-	11.	-	-
Salvage Sales	749.	-	-	1502.	-	-
Nett Cost	1279.	-	-	372.	-	-

Weight and Value of the Salvage Sold and Bonus Credits

1950/51			1951/52				1950/51			1951/52		
T.	c.	q.	T.	c.	q.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
41.	8.	1.	30.	14.	3.	Mixed Paper	252.	13.	4.	462.	4.	7.
6.	6.	2.	7.	16.	3.	Books and Magazines	68.	19.	6.	266.	15.	7.
15.	3.	-	13.	13.	3.	Newspapers	174.	18.	6.	327.	1.	7.
10.	10.	3.	18.	14.	2.	Fibreboard	115.	18.	7.	227.	1.	10.
3.	16.	1.	4.	16.	-	Ferrous Metal	7.	5.	-	15.	6.	-
	3.	2.		1.	2.	Non-Ferrous Metal	14.	16.	10.	8.	15.	3.
3.	19.	1.	4.	3.	2.	Textiles	96.	-	11.	129.	10.	3.
	1.	-	-	-	-	Bottles		9.	8.	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	Bonus Credit	18.	5.	-	37.	10.	-
81.	8.	2.	80.	-	2.	Totals	749.	7.	4.	1474.	5.	1.

8. Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

There are in the district 33 factories with mechanical power and 8 factories without mechanical power. All the factories were inspected during the year and found to be maintained generally in a satisfactory condition,

Defects in Factories and Workplaces being Nuisances under the Public Health and Factories Acts.

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accommodation:-	8	8
Insufficient	2	1
Total	15	14

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

V.N. PAGE,

Sanitary Inspector.

